

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2906**

**John Heidelberg Company; Heidelberg Store** (Frame)

**724 Frederick Road**

**Catonsville, Baltimore County**

**ca. 1880**

**Private**

The first John Heidelberg Company, a Queen Anne style commercial building constructed circa 1880, is located within the heart of Catonsville. Together with the 1925 Classical Revival style store at 720 Frederick Avenue, the wood frame building served as the Heidelberg Grocery Store from 1899 until 1965. The building, located on Frederick Road, is representative of the commercial development that defined the main thoroughfare of Catonsville at the turn of the 20th century.

The Heidelberg Store, located at the west end of a row of other commercial buildings, is two stories high and three bays wide with a central entry. The rectangular-shaped building is constructed of wood frame, set upon a parged foundation. A front-gabled roof with asphalt-shingle cladding and cornice returns covers it. The façade is clad with wood fishscale shingles, while the side and rear elevations have vinyl German siding. Extensively altered since its construction, the building has a commercial storefront on the façade, has been renovated on the side and rear elevations, and enlarged by shed roof additions. The adjacent masonry building at 720 Frederick Road, constructed in 1925 to serve the growing commercial interests of the Heidelberg Company, obscures the east elevation from view.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2906

### 1. Name of Property

historic John Heidelberg Company; Heidelberg Store (Frame)

other Plymouth Wallpaper Company

### 2. Location

street and number 724 Frederick Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy Swimmer

street and number 724 Frederick Road telephone 410.788.8500

city, town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21228-4501

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m: 101, p: 1768

city, town Towson, liber 6634 folio 146

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2906

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built circa 1880, the wood frame Heidelberg Store at 724 Frederick Road is two stories high and three bays wide with a central entry. This Queen Anne-style building is located in the town of Catonsville at the west end of a row of other commercial buildings. The rectangular-shaped building is constructed of wood frame, set upon a parged foundation. It is covered by a front-gabled roof with asphalt-shingle cladding and cornice returns. The façade is clad with wood fishscale shingles, while the side and rear elevations have vinyl German siding. Extensively altered since its construction, the building has a commercial storefront on the façade, has been renovated on the side and rear elevations, and enlarged by shed roof additions. The adjacent masonry building at 720 Frederick Road, constructed in 1925 to serve the growing commercial interests of the Heidelberg Company, obscures the east elevation from view. Paved parking is located to the west and rear. The building currently houses the Plymouth Wallpaper Company.

### EXTERIOR

The three-bay wide façade faces Frederick Road, to the south, and is marked on the first story by a projecting storefront. The three bay wide façade has a canted central entry, holding two single-leaf wood doors. One of the doors is paneled with lights; while the other is flush. Flanking the recessed entry are fixed plate glass display windows with metal frames, dating from the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A band of nine fixed three-light windows is directly above the show windows, serving as transoms. These have been painted, and are now opaque. The top of the storefront is embellished with cornice molding, and covered by a half-hipped standing-seam metal roof. The second story is clad with wood fishscale shingles and is pierced by three symmetrically placed windows. Queen Anne in style, each has a multiple-light upper sash, with one large center pane surrounded by smaller panes, above a two-light lower sash. The center window is slightly larger than the side windows, and is sheltered by a front-gabled hood supported by two wood brackets. An unusual rectangular structure clad with fishscale shingles and cornice molding rests on top of the hood, in front of the peak of the front gable. The function of this structure has not been determined.

Clad with vinyl German siding, the west elevation of the main block is three bays deep and includes two one-bay deep rear additions. The main block features a row of eight one-light square vinyl windows on the first story. These are symmetrically placed, although not equally spaced, and have wide square-edged surrounds. On the second story, three 1/1 vinyl windows with square-edged surrounds pierce the main block of the building. The center opening is standard, while the flanking windows are elongated. The shed roof addition on the rear of the main block has two standard 1/1 vinyl windows with wide square-edged surrounds on the second story. The one-story addition has a single-leaf door with one light above two panels. A shed-roof hood shelters the door, and is supported by a square-edged wood brace at the northern end. Above the entry, slightly asymmetrically placed, is a fixed one-light vinyl window with a wide square-edged surround.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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John Heidelberg Company, 724 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The rear, or north, elevation is also clad with vinyl German siding, and is comprised of the north side of the shed-roofed rear addition. This wall is pierced by two 1/1 vinyl windows and a fixed square one-light vinyl window—each with wide square-edged surrounds. A concrete block interior-end chimney adjoins the adjacent building, but is located on the roof of the shed-roof addition. The gable of the main block is clad with vinyl German siding and marked by a narrow fixed one-light window.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2906

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Significance dates** 1899-1965 **Architect** Unknown

**Specific dates** circa 1880; 1899; 1965 **Builder** Unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The first John Heidelberg Company, a Queen Anne style commercial building constructed circa 1880, is located within the heart of Catonsville. Together with the 1925 Classical Revival style store at 720 Frederick Avenue, the wood frame building served as the Heidelberg Grocery Store from 1899 until 1965. Located on Frederick Road, the building is representative of the commercial development that defined the main thoroughfare of Catonsville at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### BUILDING HISTORY

The prosperity of the 1920s and the growth of suburbs around Baltimore City brought a surge of new construction and tremendous influx of new residents to Catonsville. The population jumped from about 5,000 in 1920 to over 9,000 in 1930, with almost 900 new dwellings built in the village core and in surrounding subdivisions. These residents relied heavily upon the commercial services provided in the town, primarily those located along Frederick Road. The Heidelberg Grocery Store was one such establishment. Originally located at 918 Frederick Road, the grocery store was owned and operated by John Heidelberg between 1883 and 1889. In 1889, the store was moved to 722 Frederick Road (now 724 Frederick Road) where it continued to operate until 1965. The success of the Heidelberg store led to the opening of a second store in Roland Park, a neighborhood in Baltimore City.

The commercial building at 724 Frederick Road appears as a grocery store on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as early as 1899. To the rear of the grocery store, there were two stables and an unidentified outbuilding, none of which are extant. In 1899, the block on which the Heidelberg Store was located consisted of a number of other commercial buildings, including two other groceries, a meat market, two barber shops, a plumbing store, a jewelry store, two tin shops, two bakeries, a tobacco shop and a hotel. Although the use of these buildings has changed over time, the commercial nature of the block has remained. The first change to the property can be seen in 1910, when a warehouse and two additional outbuildings replaced the unidentified outbuilding and adjacent stable. However, no change to the primary building can be seen at this time. The need for expansion in 1925 led to the construction of the Classical Revival building at 720 Frederick Road, directly adjacent to the store at 722 Frederick Road. Despite the fact that newspapers confirm the construction of the new store in 1925, the building does not appear on the

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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**Continuation Sheet**

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Sanborn Maps until 1930. With the construction of the new store came the demolition of most of the historic outbuildings, including the circa 1910 warehouse. By 1925, as noted on the maps, the property contained the grocery store, a warehouse, two two-story vacant buildings to the rear of the grocery, and a one-story outbuilding. The warehouse, located at the northwest corner of the lot, appears to have the same footprint and location of the former stable. It is possible that the stable appearing on the maps from 1899 through 1919 was converted to a warehouse between 1919 and 1925. The warehouse once again seems to have undergone a transformation, being listed as a shed in 1930. Within thirty years, only the two commercial buildings remained on the site.<sup>1</sup>

Owned by John and Mary Heidelberg, the property, including both parcels of land on Frederick Road, was deeded to William J. Heidelberg, George C. Heidelberg, J. Walter Heidelberg, and B. Sidney Heidelberg in 1925 for the sum of five dollars. Following John Heidelberg's retirement in the 1920s, his wife and sons continued to operate the store. An advertisement in *The Argus* from 1926 indicates that the store continued to be known as the John Heidelberg Company, despite the transfer of ownership to his sons.<sup>2</sup> Both buildings continued to operate as the Heidelberg Store until 1965. The two buildings continue to operate as one business, housing the Plymouth Wallpaper Company.

### Chain of Title:

#### Part 1:

September 14, 1858: Joseph P. and Caroline Fusting to Thomas Burgess  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 23 Folio 221

July 14, 1876: Thomas and Juliana Burgess to M. E. Gerry  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber JB 98 Folio 405

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<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Catonsville, Maryland: 1899, 1904, 1910, 1919, 1925, 1930, and 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold. *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb*. (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1989), p. 136.



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John Heidelberg Company, 724 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
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### Part 2:

May 13, 1868: Nathan R. Gerry to Margaret E. Gerry  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber EHA 58 Folio 233

### Both Parts:

December 1, 1892: Margaret E. and Nathaniel R. Gerry to Frank Wilson  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 195 Folio 123

September 11, 1924: Katie Wilson, widow, and Frank Wilson, Jr., her son, to John Heidelberg, William Heidelberg, George C. Heidelberg, J. Walter Heidelberg, and B. Sidney Heidelberg  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 596 Folio 501

March 1, 1925: Mary A. and John Heidelberg to William J. Heidelberg, George C. Heidelberg, J. Walter Heidelberg, and B. Sidney Heidelberg  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 619 Folio 30

May 22, 1969: Ruth and William J. Heidelberg, George C. Heidelberg, widower, Irene and Walter Heidelberg, Ruth and Sidney Heidelberg to the Heidelberg Company  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5010 Folio 348

June 15, 1970: The Heidelberg Company to Pick-White-Monger, Inc.  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5102 Folio 479

July 8, 1974: Pick-White-Monger, Inc. to Samuel Barron, individual  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5485 Folio 261

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John Heidelberg Company, 724 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
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December 2, 1983:

Dorothy Swimmer, personal representative of Samuel Barron, deceased, to  
Dorothy Swimmer  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber GLB 6634 Folio 146



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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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John Heidelberg Company, 724 Frederick Road, Baltimore County  
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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930) Modern Period (1930-Present)
Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store
Known Design Source:	Unknown

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2906

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Orser, Edward and Joseph Arnold. *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 1989.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Catonsville, Maryland: 1899, 1904, 1910, 1919, 1925, 1930 and 1958.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem Massachusetts.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	<u>Less than one acre</u>
Acreage surveyed	<u>Less than one acre</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Baltimore West</u>

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property known as the first John Heidelberg Company is located at 724 Frederick Road in Catonsville, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 1768. The commercial building has been associated with this site since the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robin Weidlich, Chirstopher Novelli, and Laura Trieschmann, Architectural Historians
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland

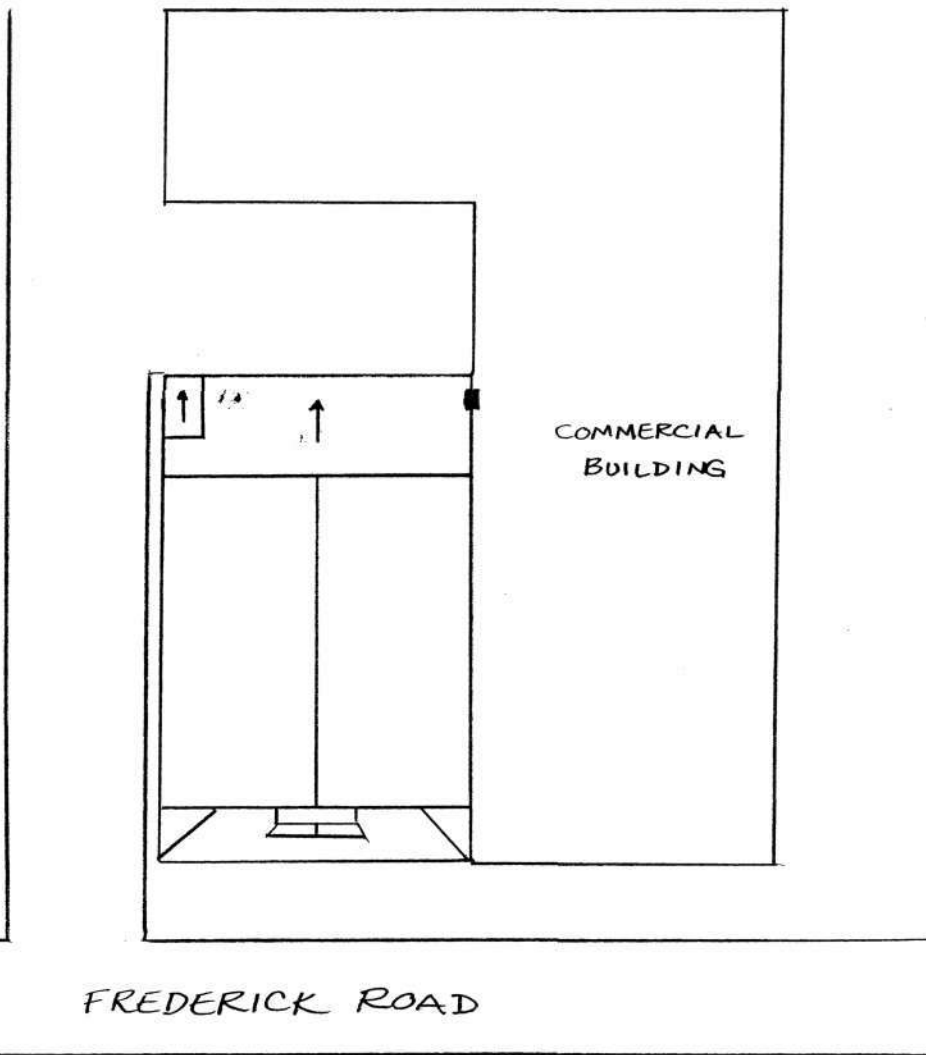
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

BA-2906  
HEIDELBACH STORE  
724 FREDERICK ROAD  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE N↑





Catonsville, Maryland  
Baltimore County  
Sanborn Map 1930, Updated 1958

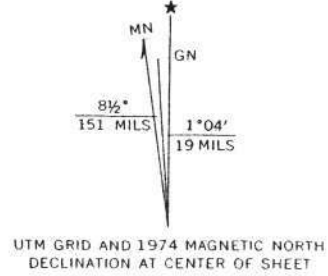
5  
3 - FEB 1971  
Library of Congress

HEIDELBACH STORE  
724 FREDERICK ROAD

BA-2906



BA-2906  
Heidelbach Store  
724 Fredrick Road  
Catonsville, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Baltimore West







BA 2906

Heidelbach Store

724 Frederick Road, Catonsville

Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPD

South elevation LOOKING NORTH

1 of 3





BA 2906

Heidelbach Store

724 Frederick Road, Catonsville

Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPD

west elevation LOOKING SOUTHEAST

2 of 3



BA 2906

Heidelbach Store

724 Frederick Road, Catonsville

Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPO

north elevation LOOKING SOUTH

3 of 3